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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated April 5, 2006. Claims 1-29 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 8-12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 3-7, 13-17, 20-24, and 27-29 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 3-7, 13-17, 20-24, and 27-29 are now pending.

Claims 1, 11, 12, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,210,826 to Takeda et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,002,970 to Veschi. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Takeda in view of Veschi. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Veschi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,538 to Amit et al. Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Takeda in view of Amit. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Takeda in view of Amit and further in view of Veschi.

The Office Action also indicated that claims 3-7, 13-17, 20-24 and 27-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 3-7, 13-17, 20-24, and 27-29 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that

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the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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